Amendment to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) An isolated adult multipotent human stem cell [[,]] ~~characterized in that it has~~ comprising:
   i) significant telomerase activity of at least 20% to 50% of the telomerase activity of the HEK293T transformed cell line,
   ii) an HLA Class I negative phenotype,
   iii) a normal karyotype,
   iv) a capacity to become quiescent, and
   v) a capacity for self-renewal preserved for at least 130 population doublings.

2. (currently amended) The stem cell according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell has a self-renewal capacity preserved for at least 200 population doublings.

3. (currently amended) The stem cell according to claim 1 or claim 2, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell can be isolated from human adipose tissue.

4. (currently amended) The stem cell ~~according to any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 3, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell can differentiate into a cell of

endodermal, ectodermal or mesodermal origin.

5. (currently amended) The stem cell ~~according to~~ of claim 4, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell is capable of differentiating into an adipocyte, osteoblast, myocyte, chondrocyte or endothelial cell.

6. (currently amended) The stem cell ~~according to any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 5, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell has a telomerase activity corresponding to at least 20% of the telomerase activity of a reference cell line.

7. (currently amended) The stem cell ~~according to any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 6, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the stem cell expresses the transcription factor Oct-4 and/or Rex-1.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A cell population comprising a plurality of cells ~~according to~~ as in any one of claims 1, [[or]] 51 [[to 54]] and 53, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell population is free of adipocytes, fibroblasts, preadipocytes, endothelial cells, pericytes, mastocytes, and smooth muscle cells.

10. (currently amended) The cell population ~~according to~~ of claim 9, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell

population is clonal.

11. (currently amended) The cell population according to ~~any one of~~ claims 9 or ~~claim~~ 10, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell population becomes quiescent after about 60 population doublings.

12. (currently amended) The cell population ~~according to~~ of claim 11, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell population is capable of proliferating in the presence of growth factors such as basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), PDGF, EGF, NGF, SCF.

13. - 24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) Stem cells obtainable by carrying out the method ~~according to any one~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 13 [[to 24]].

26. (currently amended) Stem cells according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 [[to 12]] or 25, for use in therapy.

27. (currently amended) Stem cells ~~according to~~ of claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the therapy comprises transplantation of cells into an individual followed by cell differentiation and tissue regeneration in vivo.

28. (currently amended) Stem cells ~~according to~~ of claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein transplantation is allogenic.

29. - 47. (cancelled)

48. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a plurality of cells according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 [[to 13]] or 25, ~~in association with~~ and a physiologically acceptable excipient.

49. (currently amended) An isolated adult multipotent human cell, termed a "CS" cell, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cell:

i) [[it]] has an HLA Class I negative phenotype,

ii) [[it]] has a normal karyotype,

iii) [[it]] has a self-renewal capacity that is preserved for about 40 to 60 population doublings,

iv) [[it]] is not capable of becoming quiescent, and

v) [[its]] has a proliferation rate which is not affected by LIF.

50. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated multipotent human cell population termed a "CS" population comprising a plurality of cells according to claim 49.

51. (currently amended) The stem cell ~~according to any one~~ of ~~claims~~ claim 1 [[to 8]], ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell has the following phenotype:

HLA class I negative;

HLA class II negative;

CD3 negative;

CD13 positive;

52. (currently amended) The stem cell according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 [[to 8]] or 51, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell has a CD13 positive phenotype in the presence of 10% foetal calf serum.

53. (currently amended) An isolated adult multipotent human stem cell, characterized in that after reaching quiescence, it stably exhibits the following phenotype in vitro:

HLA class I negative,
HLA class II negative,
CD3 negative,
CD13 positive,
LIF-R negative,
Oct-4 positive,
Rex-1 positive,
ABCG2 positive,

and in that it has a normal karyotype and significant telomerase activity of at least 20% to 50% of the telomerase activity of the HEK293T transformed cell line.

54. (currently amended) The cell ~~according to~~ of claim 53, ~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the cell has immunoprivileged behavior in vivo and a capacity to migrate in the undifferentiated state.